

numerals 12, 13, and 14, and the plurality of light sources are also shown collectively in Figure 7 as reference numeral 1, which is used in the illuminating device shown in Figure 4A. Applicant notes that the same objection to the drawings was made in the Office Action dated September 26, 2000, and Applicant responded to the objection in the Amendment and Petition for Extension of Time dated March 26, 2001, but this Office Action did not explain why Applicant's response was deficient. Applicant submits again that the objection to the drawings has been obviated and requests its withdrawal.

The Office Action rejected Claims 45-52 for obvious-type double patenting, as being unpatentable over Claims 45-51 of U.S. Patent No. 6,015,200 (Ogura). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 45 is a light conductive member that includes a light entrance in a part of a lateral face in a translucent member and an inclined lateral face that is located opposite to the light entrance. The inclined lateral face is adapted to reflect and/or diffuse the light beam entering the light entrance in the longitudinal direction of the rod-shaped translucent member. A light exit face is provided, and is adapted to emit at least a part of the reflected and/or diffused light beam.

One important feature of Claim 45 is the inclined lateral face, which is adapted to reflect and/or diffuse the light beam entering the light entrance in the longitudinal direction of the rod-shaped translucent member. An example of such an inclined lateral face is shown in Figure 4A at reference numeral 6, and the light beam (see, e.g., the line with the arrow) from the light source (see, e.g., reference numeral 1) entering the entrance face (see, e.g., reference numeral 3) of the translucent member (see, e.g., reference numeral 2) is shown traveling in the direction horizontal to the translucent

member. (It is to be understood, of course, that the scope of Claim 45 is not limited to the details of this embodiment, which is referred to only for purposes of illustration.)

Claim 45 of Ogura is directed to a light conductive member that includes a light entrance face in the lateral face of a translucent member. An area opposite to the entrance face of the translucent member reflects or diffuses an entering light beam in the longitudinal direction of the translucent member, and an exit face in at least a part of the lateral face emits a part of the reflected or diffused light beam. Ogura does not recite the inclined lateral face, which is recited in Claim 45, and for this reason, Applicant submits that Claim 45 is patentably distinct from Claim 1 of Ogura.

Independent Claim 53 is an apparatus claim that includes the same feature of an inclined lateral face relative to the light entrance face in a part of the lateral face opposed to the light entrance face, as discussed above in connection with Claim 45. Accordingly, Claim 53 is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 45.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by

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Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

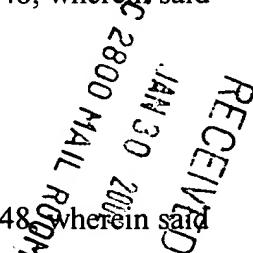
45. (Twice Amended) A light conductive member comprising a light entrance face in a part of a lateral face other than an end in the longitudinal direction of a rod-shaped translucent member; an inclined lateral face relative to said light entrance face [on a side] in a part of the lateral face opposed to said light entrance face, [for reflecting and/or diffusing] adapted to reflect and/or diffuse an entering light beam into the longitudinal direction of said rod-shaped translucent member; and [an] a light exit face in at least a part of [a] the lateral face, [for emitting] adapted to emit at least a part of said reflected and/or diffused light beam.

46. (Twice Amended) A light conductive member according to claim 45, further comprising a reflecting and/or diffusing area, on a side opposed to said exit face, [for further reflecting and/or diffusing] adapted to further reflect and/or diffuse the light beam reflected and/or diffused by the [first-mentioned area] inclined lateral face.

48. (Amended) An illuminating device comprising a light conductive member according to [any one of] claim[s] 45, 46 or 47 and a light source [for irradiating] adapted to irradiate the light entrance face of said light conductive member with light.

49. (Amended) An illuminating device according to claim 48, wherein said light source [is] comprises an LED.

50. (Amended) An illuminating device according to claim 48, wherein said light source [is composed of plural] includes a plurality of light-emitting [members with



mutually] elements, each light emitting element having different light emission wavelength ranges.

52. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 51, further comprising a drive [means for shifting] unit, said drive unit being adapted to shift a positional relationship between the original and the photoelectric converting device.